DAVID

MAUD AND MISKA PETERSHAM

With Love to Fred
From Auntie's Era. 1941

With Love to David
From your grandfather Fred 1995

DAVID

DAVID

FROM THE STORY TOLD IN THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL AND THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

MAUD AND MISKA PETERSHAM

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY
CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA TORONTO
MCMXXXVIII

Copyright, 1938, by
THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY
Copyright in Great Britain
The British Dominions and Possessions
Copyright in the Philippine Islands

All Rights Reserved

Lithographed in The United States of America

CONTENTS

THE SHEPHERD BOY
DAVID AND GOLIATH OF GATH
JONATHAN AND DAVID
DAVID IN HIDING
KING SAUL DIES
KING DAVID
THE KING'S SONS

Samuel, the prophet, became judge of all Israel. But as he grew old, the Children of Israel asked for a king, and Saul was made king. But Saul proved unworthy, and Samuel looked for someone to follow Saul.

THE SHEPHERD BOY

WHILE Saul was king of Israel, a man called Jesse lived with his sons in Bethlehem. Among the sons there was one whom God had chosen to be the next king.

The prophet Samuel knew this. And because he was the prophet of Israel, God sent him to find this one and anoint his head with oil, as was the custom.

Samuel filled his horn with oil and went to Bethlehem. He called the man Jesse and his sons to him. And when they had come, the father made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. They passed before him one by one.

As Samuel looked at each one, he knew that God had not chosen any of these. Then Samuel said, "Are here all thy children?"

Jesse said, "There remaineth yet the youngest, and he keepeth the sheep."

Samuel told Jesse to send for him. The father sent and brought the boy, David, in from the fields. David was a beautiful boy and he was strong and ruddy. When Samuel saw David, he knew he was the one chosen to be the next king of Israel.

He took the horn of oil and poured it upon the head of David before all his brothers. The Spirit of God came upon David from that day forward.

But the Spirit of God departed from the king, Saul. Saul was sad, and at times madness came upon him.

His servants told him that they believed music would make him well. One said that he had seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who could sing and play on the harp. Saul sent messengers and asked Jesse to send this son

to him. And David came, and Saul was pleased with David.

After that, when Saul was troubled, David took his harp and played to him. So Saul was refreshed and was well.

DAVID AND GOLIATH OF GATH

THERE was war between the men of Israel and the Philistines. Saul, the king, went with his army, and young David went back to Bethlehem to his father.

Saul and the men of Israel prepared for a great battle. The Philistines were camped on a mountain on the one side, and Israel was on a mountain on the other side. And there was a valley between them.

And there went out a champion from the camp of the Philistines. His name was Goliath of Gath, and he was a giant in size.

He had a helmet of brass upon his head and he was armed with a heavy coat of mail. He also had armour of brass upon his legs and armour of brass between his shoulders,

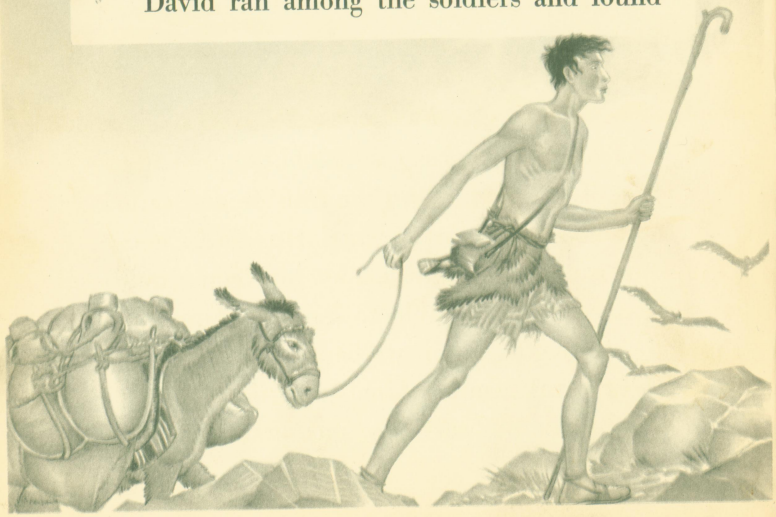
and a man bearing a shield went before him. Goliath stood on the hillside and called across to the armies of Israel. He said, "Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants, but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us."

When Saul and all Israel heard these words, they were afraid. For forty days, each morning and each evening, Goliath appeared and gave his challenge.

Now the three eldest brothers of David were soldiers under Saul. Jesse, their father, sent David to carry food from their home to his brothers in the camp.

David rose up early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and went with the food for his brothers. He came to the camp just as Saul's men were going into battle.

David ran among the soldiers and found



his brothers. While he was talking with them, the great Goliath came out from the camp of the Philistines. He shouted his challenge again, and David heard him. All the men of Israel, when they saw Goliath, fled from him and were afraid.

But David went to Saul, the king, and said, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. I will go and fight with this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

Then David told Saul that while he was tending his father's sheep, a lion and a bear had come and taken a lamb out of the flock. And he had been able to kill the lion and the bear. And David said that God would save him from the Philistine just as he had saved him from the lion and from the bear.

Saul said unto David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

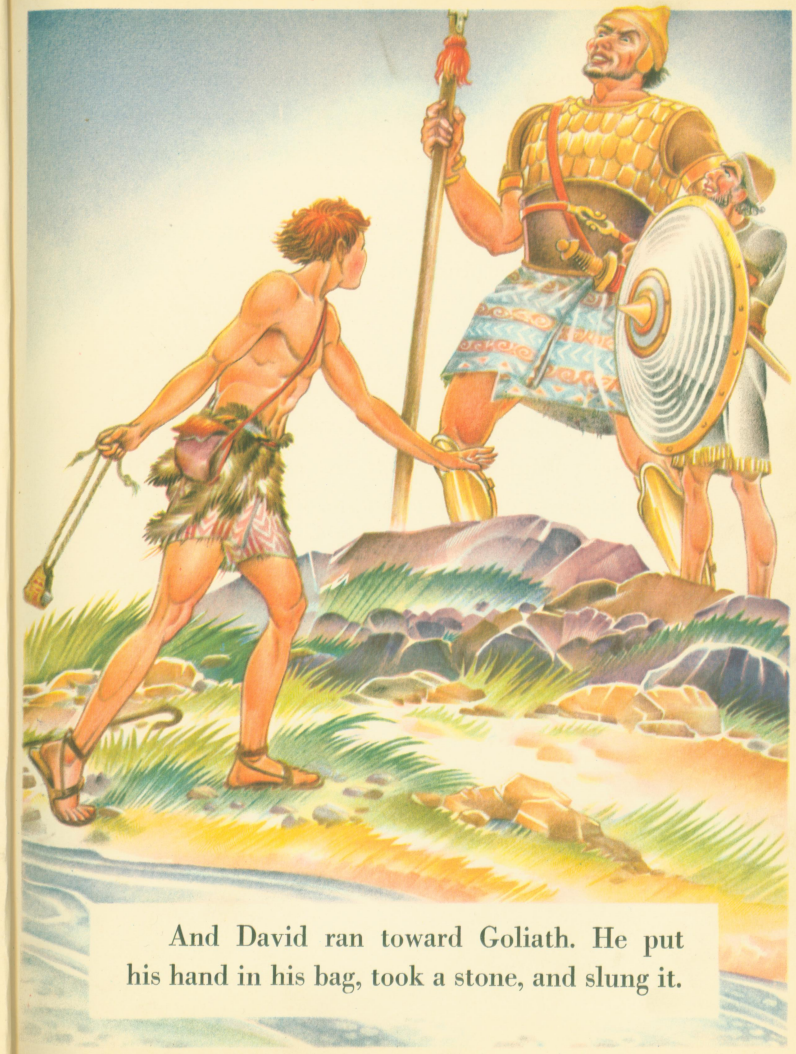
And Saul gave David his own armour. He put a helmet of brass upon his head and also

armed him with a coat of mail and a sword. David tried the sword and then he said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them."

And David put them off. He took his staff in his hand. He chose him five smooth stones out of the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag. And with his sling in his hand, he drew near to the giant.

Goliath came to meet David, and the man that bore the shield went before him. When Goliath saw that David was only a boy with a staff in his hand, he shouted, "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field."

Then said David to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to thee in the name of the God of the armies of Israel. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."



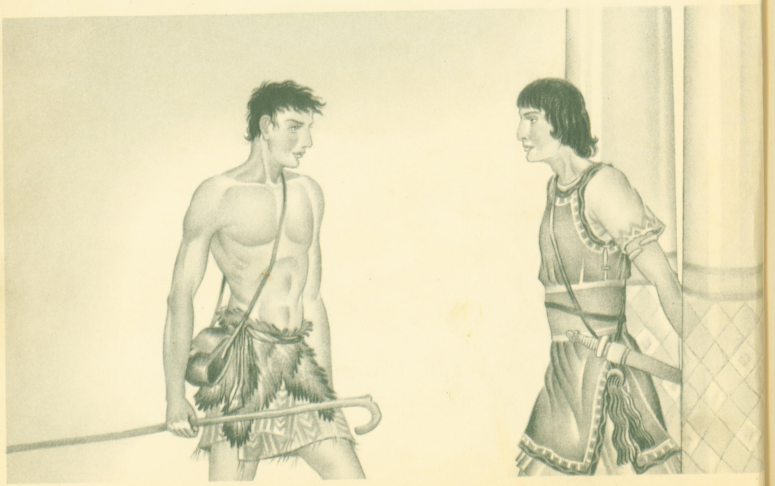
And David ran toward Goliath. He put his hand in his bag, took a stone, and slung it.

The stone sank into the forehead of Goliath, and he fell upon his face to the earth. David then ran and drew the Philistine's sword and cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

JONATHAN AND DAVID

SAUL, the king, took David that day to his own house. Jonathan, the king's son, and David became close friends. And Jonathan loved David as his own soul.



Then Jonathan and David made a pledge, saying, "God be between me and thee and between my children and thy children forever." As was the custom when a pledge was made, Jonathan took off the robe that was upon him and gave it to David. He gave him his sword, his bow, and his girdle.

David went wherever Saul sent him and acted wisely in all ways. And Saul set him over the men of war.

Now it happened when they returned victorious, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing. And the women sang:

"Saul hath slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

This made Saul very angry and jealous. He was afraid of David because God was with him. But all Israel loved David.

While David was at the court, madness again came upon Saul and he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand. And David played to him. In his madness Saul threw his javelin at David. But David slipped away,

and the javelin hit the wall. Then David fled to his own house.

After that Saul was afraid to kill David himself. But he thought he might bring about his death in battle with the Philistines. So he promised to give his daughter, Michal, to David as his wife if he would kill one hundred of the Philistines, who were Saul's enemies.

David went against the Philistines and killed two hundred men of them. And Michal, the king's daughter, became his wife.

After trying yet again to kill David with his javelin, Saul sent messengers to David's house, to watch him and to kill him in the morning. But Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.

Jonathan saw that his father would surely kill David if he could. So he met David outside the city and told him not to return.

David and Jonathan kissed one another in farewell and wept one with another.

Jonathan went back into the city and David fled into the wilderness for fear of Saul.

DAVID IN HIDING

DAVID fled from place to place. At last he came to the cave of Adullam and he hid there. When his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went to him. And other people not satisfied with the rule of King Saul gathered about him. And he became a captain over them. There were about four hundred men with him.

For many years Saul hunted after David. But David and his followers hid themselves from him.

When it was told to Saul where David might be found, Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and they went to seek David upon the rocks of the wild goats.

Saul came to a cave and went in to rest. In this cave David and his men were hiding. The men of David were ready to kill Saul. But David would not let them harm him.

Again Saul went to find David and destroy him.

From his hiding place in the mountains, David saw the camp of Saul below him. That night David and one of his soldiers, Abishai, went to the camp. They found Saul sleeping within the trench. Saul's spear was stuck in the ground at his head, and his guards lay sleeping round about him.

David would not let Abishai kill the sleeping king. He took the spear and cruse of

water from Saul's side and went away. And David and his men remained in the wilderness.

KING SAUL DIES

ONCE more the Philistines gathered together all their armies to fight Israel. When Saul saw all the Philistines, his heart trembled, for he knew that God was no longer with him.

Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines. The Philistines followed close upon Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan and two of his brothers.

The arrows of the archers hit Saul and he was sore wounded. And he told his armour-bearer to draw his sword and kill him before the Philistines caught up with him.

The armour-bearer would not, for he was afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell upon it.

When his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword.

So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men that same day together.

Word of this was brought to David. Then David rent his clothes as a sign of mourning. He mourned and wept for Saul and for Jonathan, whose love for him had been so great.

KING DAVID

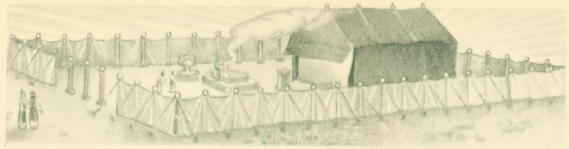
AFTER the death of Saul, David became king over all the twelve tribes of Israel. He grew great and powerful.

King David had many wars. And he conquered the Philistines and all the other enemies of Israel.

He took the stronghold of Zion and dwelt there. He built a city around it and the city was called Jerusalem, the City of David.

Then David brought the holy ark of God out of its hiding place. He had it set up in the tent which he had prepared for it.

King David said to the prophet Nathan, "I dwell in a house of cedar but the ark of



God dwelleth within a tent." He planned to build a temple to God. And he gathered together great treasures of gold and silver.

But the prophet told David that he could not build this temple because he had been a man of war. He said that Solomon, David's son, would be a man of peace and that he should build the temple to God.

God promised David that he would give to him and to his children a throne and a kingdom that should last forever.

When the wars were over, David remembered his pledge to Jonathan. He said, "Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" He found that Jonathan had left a son who was poor and lame. Then King David sent for him.

And when the son of Jonathan was brought to David, he fell on his face before the king.

David told him not to be afraid. He said he would surely show him kindness for his father's sake. He gave him the land and all that had belonged to Saul. And he told him that he should always eat at the king's table. And the son of Jonathan became as one of his own sons.

THE KING'S SONS

IT CAME to pass that David did a great wrong and he knew that he had sinned. And great trouble and suffering came to him and to his house.

King David had many sons, but the one he loved best was Absalom. In all Israel there was none so much praised as Absalom for his beauty. Yet he was not content but plotted against his father to be king himself.

He had chariots and horses and fifty men to run before him. Each day he rose up early and stood by the city gate. When any man came by on his way to the king, Absalom would call to him and say, "See, thy matters are

good and right, but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. Oh, that I were made judge in the land! I would do thee justice."

And when any man came near him to bow before him, he kissed him. It was in this way that Absalom stole the hearts of men from his father. He gathered men about him and called himself king.

The news of this came to David. He and his household left Jerusalem in haste to escape from Absalom and to save the city from the sword.

Those faithful to King David followed him. They found refuge in a city across the river Jordan. And there they made ready for battle against Absalom.

King David stood by the gate and watched his men go out to fight by hundreds and by thousands. He commanded each of the three leaders of his army to deal gently with the young man, Absalom, for his sake.

The battle took place in the wood by Ephraim. And the men of David defeated the followers of Absalom, and many were killed.

After the battle Absalom rode through the wood upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak. Absalom's head, with its long hair, was caught in the oak. And Absalom hung in the oak tree.

In the city King David sat between the gates of the city wall and waited for news of the battle.

The watchman went up to the roof over the gate of the wall. He looked and saw a man running alone.

This man was bringing news. As he came near, he called and said, "All is well." He fell down to the earth before the king. And he told the king of the victory.

And the king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And the runner did not dare tell him what had happened to his son.

A second man came running with news. And the king said to him, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" And David learned from him that his son was dead.

The king was moved and went up to the room over the gate and wept. As he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

David and his followers went back to Jerusalem. And King David ruled over Israel for yet many years.

When David had been king over Israel for forty years, he was old, and he wished his son, Solomon, to reign after him.

He called Nathan, the prophet, and Zadok, the priest. They gathered the people together and they caused Solomon to ride upon King David's own mule. The priest took a horn of oil and anointed Solomon. They blew the trumpet and all the people cried, "God save King Solomon."

Before David died, he talked to his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth. Be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man and keep the charge of the Lord thy God."

David died and was buried in Jerusalem, the City of David. And Solomon sat upon the throne of David, his father.